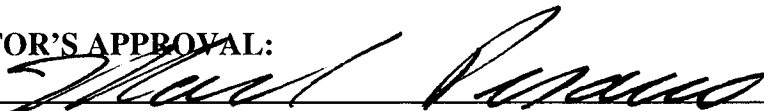


REPORT

DATE: May 4, 2006
TO: Regional Council/Administration Committee
FROM: Hasan Ikhata, Director of Planning and Policy
SUBJECT: Invitation to Visit the Shanghai, China Maglev System

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Approve acceptance of an invitation to SCAG from the National Maglev Transportation Engineering R&D Center (NMTC) in Shanghai, China to send a delegation of five Regional Council members and two SCAG staff members, on a fact-finding trip to learn about and experience their Maglev system.
2. Approve one of two funding options for the delegation's airfare. The first option is for individual members (or their cities or agencies) to pay. The second option is to use residual funds from sponsorships and registration fees of previous SCAG activities.

BACKGROUND:

On March 7, 2006, SCAG received an invitation from the NMTC to send a delegation on a fact-finding trip to Shanghai, China to learn from the government's experiences in the construction, operations and maintenance of their Maglev system. Two SCAG staff members would accompany the delegation. The fact-finding trip will be highly beneficial in gaining a deeper understanding of the Maglev technology and its potential implementation in the SCAG region. The trip is planned for July 10, 2006, at which time Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa and members of the Los Angeles World Airports Commission are planning a trip to Shanghai to learn about and ride the system.

The NMTC has offered to bear the cost of lodging, meals and transportation for the five elected officials during a three-day stay in Shanghai. The NMTC is a government agency formed under the auspices of the Chinese government and the City of Shanghai's Department of Public Works.

Airfare is not included in the NMTC invitation. Thus, the cost of airfare would be borne using one of two options. The first option would be for Regional Council members (or their cities or agencies) to pay their airfare. The second option would be to use residual funds from sponsorships and registration fees of previous SCAG activities. To date, SCAG has sponsored numerous events and conferences wherein revenues from sponsorships and registration fees have exceeded the anticipated cost by over \$20,000. These excess funds are available for paying the delegation's airfare for the aforementioned trip to Shanghai.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Residual funds are available from sponsorships and registration fees of SCAG activities to provide airfare to the delegation of five Regional Council members, and travel expenses to two staff members. The estimated cost to SCAG would be \$1,500 per person for 7 persons for airfare at \$10,500, plus \$300 for lodging and expenses for 4 nights for 2 staff at \$2,400, for a total of \$12,900.